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works to protect their rights and guide them in their actions," the task force said. "In some instances, this means representing, protecting and defending the client against the power of the government."

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OSWALD 'TRIAL' draws big crowds, presents new evidence at meeting.

"Every cab driver in town knows about this," said Theodore R. Tetzlaff, outgoing chairman of the ABA's litigation section, which sponsored the mock trial of Lee Harvey Oswald in the assassination of President Kennedy.

The "jury" of San Francisco-area residents, which was allowed only 2½ hours to deliberate yesterday, couldn't reach a unanimous verdict. The jurors returned with seven votes of guilty and five innocent.

The trial was open to the public, contributing to overflow crowds that prevented many would-be spectators, including Mr. Tetzlaff, from watching the proceedings in the mock courtroom at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. "There's a tremendous amount of interest in what lawyers do," Mr. Tetzlaff exulted. "It's refreshing."

But the real interest was probably in the new examination of assassination evidence, and not in the courtroom performances of "prosecutors" Jim Brosnahan, Joe Cotchett and John Keker of San Francisco and "defense counsel" Tom Barr, David Boies and Evan Chesler of New York.

The evidence went through $1 million of re-analysis by Failure Analysis Associates Inc., a litigation-support firm, according to Mr. Tetzlaff. Among other things, he said, the Menlo Park, Calif., company bought a rifle identical to the one found at the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas and had it fitted with a scope by the same craftsman who had fitted the scope on the rifle purchased by Mr. Oswald. The company then fired the rifle into jelly-filled corpses in a limousine identical to President Kennedy's to try to determine whether Mr. Oswald was the only gunman. The simulation was shown on videotape in the mock courtroom.

"Gruesome," said lawyer Robert Friebert of Milwaukee, who managed to find a seat in the courtroom. "Really grisly."

But Mr. Friebert said he was convinced by the "new" evidence, particularly a freshly enhanced frame of the film shot by Abraham Zapruder that showed the coat lapel of then-Texas Gov. John Connally blowing forward — apparently struck from behind by a bullet from a single gunman.

"They certainly resolved that issue for me," Mr. Friebert said. "This was incredible testimony."